

## December 2005 Update

### Smuggler Mountain Superfund Site Pitkin County, Colorado (5-Year Review Date 9/25/02)

#### *Highlights Since the 2002 5-Year Review*

- **Regular inspections for the OU 1 residential area began in April 2003**
- **Increased security at OU2, watchman's quarters built, additional fence inspections**

**Brief Site History:** The Smuggler Mountain site, located in northeastern Aspen on the flank of Smuggler Mountain, covers 135 acres, 116 of which are residential. The site is developed with condominium units, mobile home parks, a tennis club and single-family homes. Site soil analyses have shown high levels of lead and cadmium. The Roaring Fork River is not contaminated and is not considered a potential health risk to the community. The potential health risks to residents include incidental ingestion of contaminated surface soils or eating vegetables grown in contaminated soils, as well as breathing contaminated soil dust. Lead exposure may cause long-term or permanent nervous-system damage, which may result in learning disabilities and behavioral problems. Even exposure to low lead levels may harm the nervous system of young children. Lead exposure may also cause long-term damage to the cardiovascular system, the reproductive system, kidneys and the liver. The EPA placed the site on the NPL in 1986.

**Cleanup Activities Completed:** The potentially responsible parties have completed the following cleanup activities:

- Blood-lead monitoring studies, reports on lead impacts and concluding that children living on the site are at acceptable risk to exposure of lead in soil.
- Capping contaminated berm with clean soil and plants. Covering and replanting common-use areas of exposed mine waste, plus the Mollie Gibson Park.
- Regrading a parking area and part of the mine to drain back into the mountain.
- Controlling dust emissions from the mine from dirt roads and the parking area by periodic spraying of a dust-suppressant solution.
- Extending the existing fence to restrict entry to the lower portion of the mine.

**Current Status:** This is the second five-year review conducted at the Smuggler Mountain Superfund Site. The first review was completed on November 7, 1997 and resulted in the finding that the remedy was protective of human health and the environment. The site was removed from the NPL on September 23, 1999. Current ground water monitoring and maintenance of waste caps is in place throughout the site. The remedies are working as intended.

**Summary of Protectiveness:** The remedy at the Smuggler Mountain Superfund Site is protective of human health and the environment. Institutional controls for OU 1 are in full force and effect and in accordance with the OU 1 Consent Decree. The mining area is being properly maintained and is in accordance with the OU 2 AOC.

**Issues Impacting Protectiveness:** A few issues that do not immediately impact the protectiveness of the remedy were noted. The following table summarizes the status of the follow-up actions addressing these issues.

**Smuggler Mountain Superfund Site  
Five-Year Review Update Table  
(Review Date 9/25/02)**

Issues	Recommendations Follow-up	Follow-up Actions (Status/Due date)	Status of Follow-up Actions 12/05	Responsible Party
1) No consistent protocol for visual inspections of the OU 1 residential area	- Pitkin County will inspect the OU 1 residential area for ordinance compliance once a month during no-snow months.	Monthly inspections began in April of 2003 and were subsequently conducted for all no-snow months of 2003. Inspections are also planned for 2004 and subsequent years.	Monthly inspections began in April of 2003 and were subsequently conducted for all no-snow months of 2003. Inspections are also planned for 2004 and subsequent years.	Pitkin County
2) Residents in OU 1 not advised of procedures required in area.	- Pitkin County to send notices, detailing ordinance requirements to all residents living within OU 1	The written notice was mailed to all applicable residents on May 8, 2003. The next notice will coincide with the next five-year review.	The written notice was mailed to all applicable residents on May 8, 2003. The next notice will coincide with the next five-year review.	Pitkin County
3) Access controls of OU 2 not effective. Evidence of unauthorized access into mining area	- Watchman's quarters to be completed within one year of this report.	Due to economic constraints, the quarters could not be completed in 2003. Depending on revenues received in 2004, completion of the quarters is planned this year. As a result, the frequency for site visits has been increased along with inspections of the fence surrounding OU 2.	Watchman's quarters were completed by end of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter FY05. Inspections of fence surrounding OU2 increased in frequency.	Wright and Preusch Mining Co.